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# **Nourishing the City: the urban food question**

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# Overview

- How and why has food appeared on the urban political agenda
  - What city governments can do/are doing to fashion a more sustainable food system
  - The new politics of food-based civil society groups
  - Emerging forms of urban food governance
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# A forgotten planning domain?

- Among the basic essentials of life – air, water, shelter, food – food has been absent from the planning agenda
  - The food system was “a stranger to the planning field” (Pothukuchi and Kaufmann)
  - This applied to Europe and the US, while street food vendors in Asia and Africa are harassed by urban planners
  - But this is less true today
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# The drivers of change

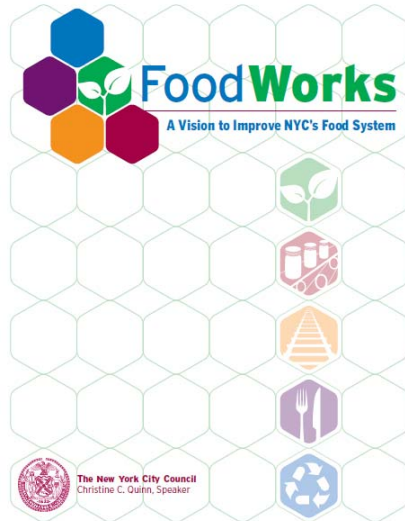
- Why food moved up the political agenda:
    - food security is now a **national security** issue
    - food chain accounts for 31% of GHG **emissions** in the EU
    - burgeoning problems of **obesity/hunger**
    - food is a **planning prism** for land, water, energy, transport and eco-system services
    - place, provenance and...**pleasure**
    - rapid pace of **urbanisation**
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# Food planning in North America

- First food planning track in APA history at its national conference in 2005
  - 193 Food Policy Councils active in North America as of May 2012
  - Big cities loom large in food planning:
    - **New York** – food and health agenda
    - **Seattle** – food and sustainability agenda
    - **San Francisco** – most holistic agenda to date
    - **Toronto** – innovative Food Policy Council
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# NYC: FoodWorks



**AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION** 13



**PROCESSING** 31



**DISTRIBUTION** 39



**CONSUMPTION** 47



**POST- CONSUMPTION** 65

# Seattle: holistic goals drive food policy



## HEALTHY VENDING MACHINES? YES, SAYS BOARD OF HEALTH!

May 3rd, 2011

## PARKS LEVY MAKING IT HAPPEN: EXPANDING COMMUNITY GARDENS

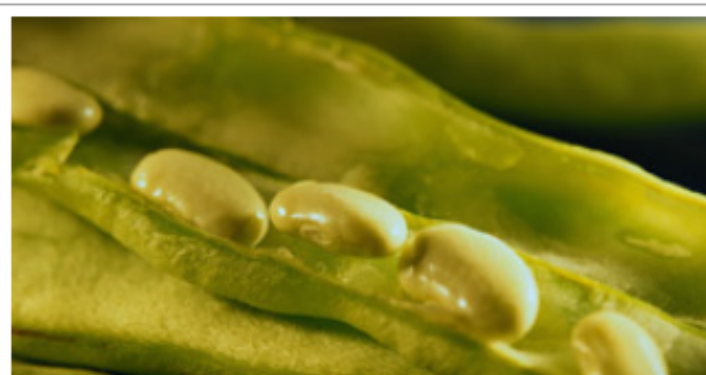
April 14th, 2011

## REGION AGREES TO CREATE FOOD POLICY COUNCIL

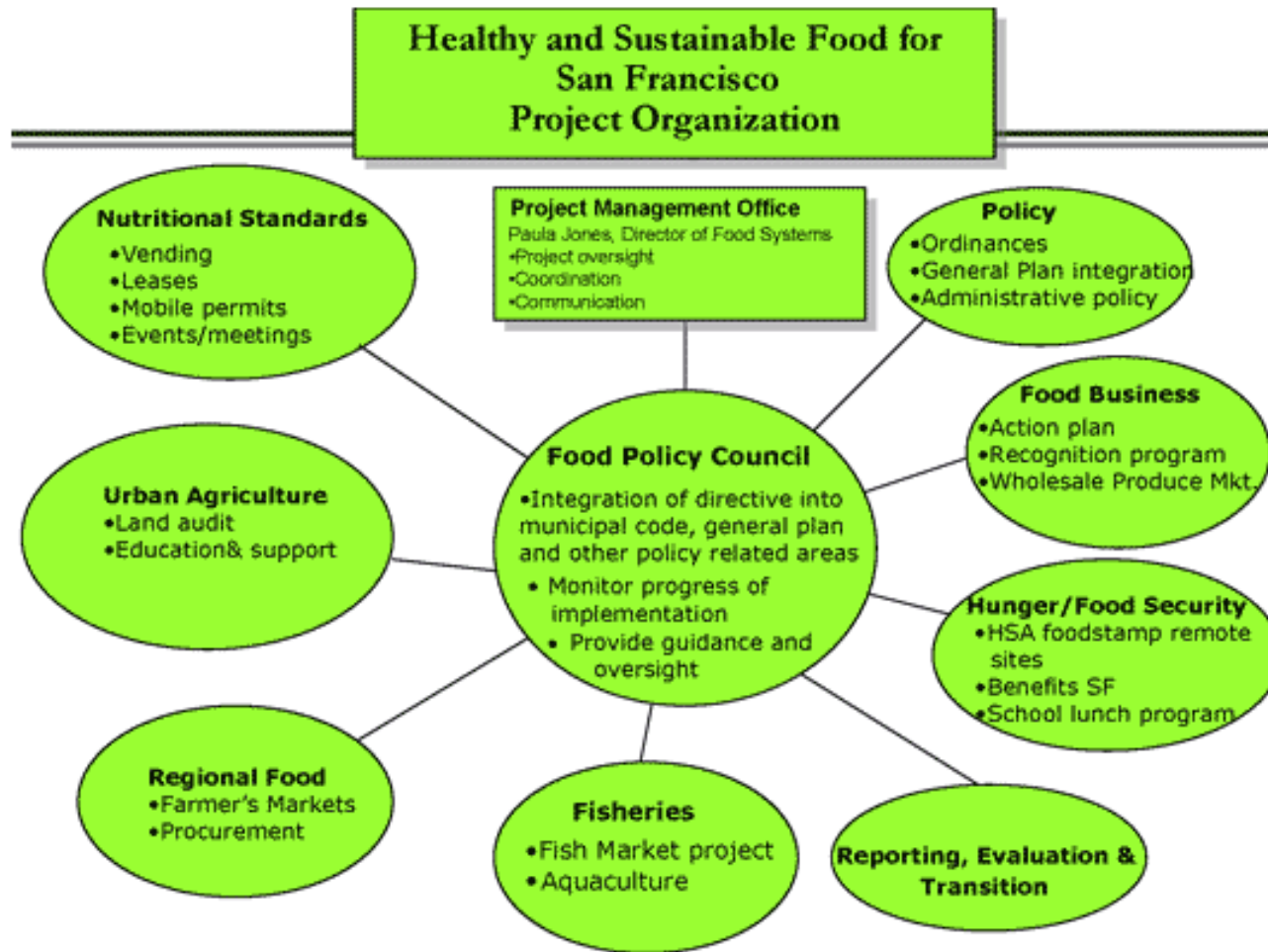
December 7th, 2010

## Local Food Action Initiative

The Local Food Action Initiative is a series of actions meant to promote local and regional food sustainability and security. The intent is to improve our local food system and in doing so, advance the City of Seattle's interrelated goals of race and social justice, environmental sustainability, economic development, and emergency preparedness.

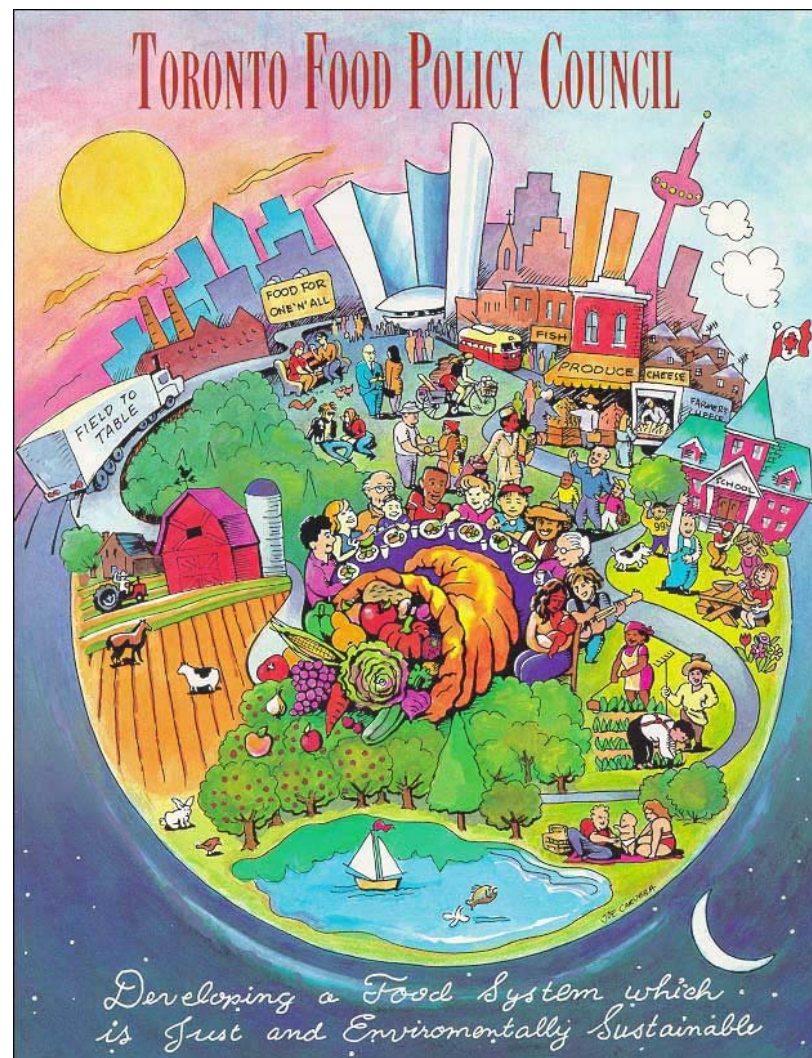


# San Francisco: integrative policy





# Toronto Food Policy Council: a pioneer



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# Urban food planning in Africa

- Examples of food planning in Africa include:
    - **Urban agriculture:** planners are beginning to recognise UA as a legitimate activity in the city, where vendors need better access to resources and more secure user rights (Dar es Salaam/Kampala are pioneers here)
    - **AFSUN:** highlighting the problem of urban food security and opening a dialogue with the AESOP sustainable food planning network ([www.afsun.org](http://www.afsun.org))
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# Urban food planning in Latin America

- **Belo Horizonte** (Brazil) is the community food planning capital of Latin America
  - Strong city-wide commitment to food security in a country with strong national policies (Fome Zero, Bolsa Familia)
  - BH targets all stages of the food chain and the most vulnerable citizens (e.g. poorest, children, pregnant women, nursing mothers)
  - BH now dubbed “the city that abolished hunger”
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# Urban food planning in Europe

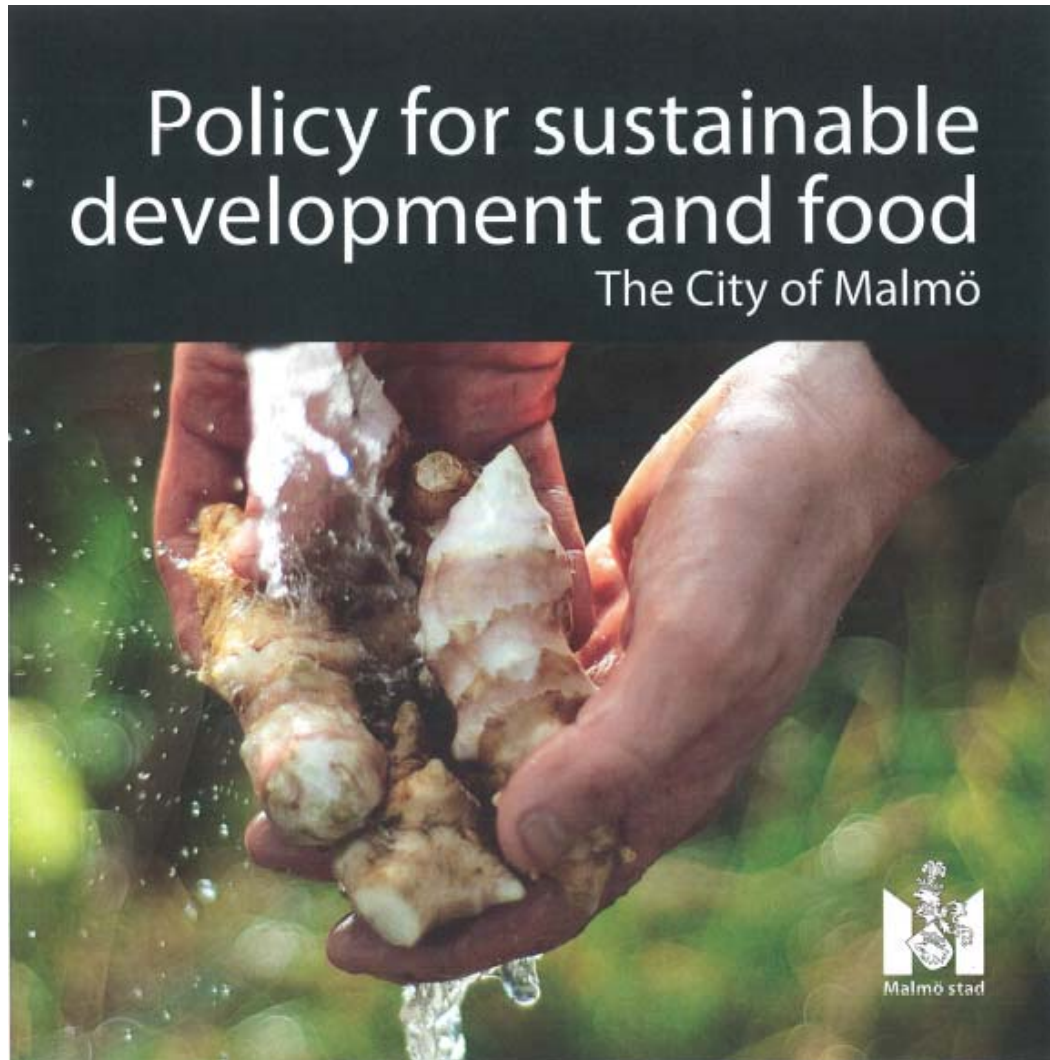
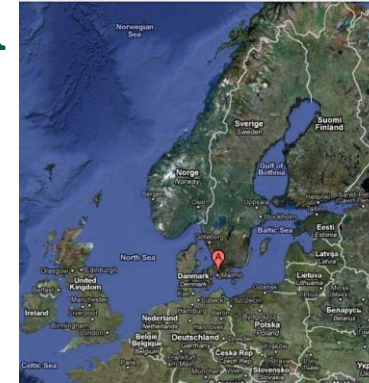
- Big cities hog the food planning headlines:
    - **Rome** – led the school food revolution with its quality food for all
    - **London** – launched a healthy food plan as part of a sustainable world city strategy
    - **Amsterdam** – issued an urban food strategy for human health, ecological integrity and to re-connect the city with its countryside
  - But all these cities have since regressed
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# Urban food policy in “ordinary cities”

- Are smaller/ordinary cities now taking the lead?
  - **Malmö** – food policy as part of broader urban sustainability policy
  - **Bristol** – nurturing a food culture that has the health of people, place and planet at its heart
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# Malmö, Sweden



The importance  
of food – more  
than just a meal



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# Malmö: “Eat SMART”

## S.M.A.R.T. STANDS FOR:

- ① Smaller amount of meat
  - ② Minimise intake of junk food/empty calories
  - ③ An increase in organic
  - ④ Right sort of meat and vegetables
  - ⑤ Transport efficient
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# Malmö: leadership by example

WE VALUE FOOD IN MALMÖ

## THE CITY OF MALMÖ SHALL LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Food is also important for our quality of life and wellbeing in health and social care. Eating together fulfils a strong educational, social and cultural function.

### PURPOSE

The policy shall

- Contribute to a sustainable Malmö with healthy citizens
- Strengthen the importance of food in the City of Malmö's own operations to increase the attractiveness of food.
- Work towards 100% sustainable purchasing in the City of Malmö.
- Ensure that the City of Malmö leads from the front and only serves sustainable and safe food when serving food at official functions and representation.

We need to eat a lot of fruit and vegetables. Vegetables, such as broccoli, cabbage, onion, carrots and other root vegetables are very nutritious and are cheap. They are also resource efficient and climate smart when compared to greenhouse grown vegetables such as cucumber and tomato.

*Within the City of Malmö's organisation we shall buy more coarse vegetables. Vegetable procurement shall, as far as possible, also follow the seasons.*



# Malmö: joined-up policy

## OTHER RELEVANT STEERING DOCUMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This policy has taken into consideration other steering documents and recommendations, both internal documents, from the City of Malmö, and external documents that have a national focus. The most important are listed below.

### INTERNAL

- Environmental Programme for the City of Malmö
- The City of Malmö's procurement policy
- Quality with respect to diet and nutrition in health and social care
- Strategy to prevent obesity amongst children and young people in Malmö
- Action plan to promote physical activity and good eating habits amongst children and young people in Malmö
- Malmö School Restaurant's environmental work



### EXTERNAL

- Parliament
  - Law on Public Procurement
- Government
  - Prop. 2009/10:165 The new school law – for knowledge, choice and security
- The National Food Administration
  - Swedish nutrition recommendations
  - Good food for children in pre-school
  - Good food for children in school
  - Food and nutrition for the ill within health and social care
- The Swedish Environmental Management Council
  - Criteria for food
- The Institute for Public Health in Stockholm Region
  - Eat S.M.A.R.T.
- Fair Trade Sweden
  - Criteria for Fair Trade City

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# Bristol: “positive food planning power”

## Who feeds Bristol?

Towards a resilient food plan

Production • Processing • Distribution • Communities • Retail • Catering • Waste

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# Food System Thinking in Bristol



# Rome: the power of purchase

- ❑ 67.5% of the food is organic
- ❑ 44% of the food comes from 'bio-dedicated' food chains
- ❑ 26% of the food is local
- ❑ 14% of the food is Fair Trade
- ❑ 2% of the food comes from social cooperatives



# NYC: the public health mandate

growTo  
LEARN nyc

About the Program

Success Stories

School Gardens 101

Seed Money

Teacher Resources

Get Involved

## The Citywide School Gardens Initiative



## NYC Green Cart



# NYC: AD CAMPAIGNS



**ARE YOU POURING  
ON THE POUNDS?**

**DON'T DRINK YOURSELF FAT.**  
How to cut back on soda,  
juice and other sugary beverages.



• Available in Spanish and Chinese call 311 or visit [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health)  
• Disponible en español llame al 311 o visite [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health)  
• 311 中文服務 請電 311 或瀏覽 [nyc.gov/health](http://nyc.gov/health)



**NYC Water**  
**Get Your Fill**

Zero calories

Healthy

Delicious

Zero sugar

Clean

# NYC: NEW LEGISLATION

## The Requirement to Post Calorie Counts on Menus In New York City Food Service Establishments

(Section 81.50 of the New York City Health Code)



### LUNCH

	Calories	Price
Grilled Chicken	390	\$3.99
Hamburger	280	\$0.99
Cheeseburger	300	\$1.39
Fish Filet	450	\$3.29
Fries - Small	300	\$1.00
Fries - Large	600	\$1.79
Soda - Small	150	\$1.00
Soda - Large	300	\$1.89

**How to Comply:**  
What Your Establishment  
Needs to Know about  
Posting Calories on Menus  
and Menu Boards

## The Regulation to Phase Out Artificial Trans Fat In New York City Food Service Establishments

(Section 81.08 of the New York City Health Code)

**How to Comply:**  
What Restaurants,  
Caterers, Mobile  
Food-Vending Units  
and Others  
Need to Know



# Big food fights back

# The Nanny

*You only thought you lived in the land of the free.*

## Bye Bye Venti

*Nanny Bloomberg has taken his strange obsession with what you eat one step further. He now wants to make it illegal to serve “sugary drinks” bigger than 16 oz. What’s next? Limits on the width of a pizza slice, size of a hamburger or amount of cream cheese on your bagel?*

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**New Yorkers need a Mayor, not a Nanny.**

Find out more at [ConsumerFreedom.com](http://ConsumerFreedom.com)



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# Food politics: a cooperative turn?

- Local food politics appears to be in transition in and beyond the UK
  - Civil society groups are changing their tactics vis-à-vis the local state, from confrontation to collaboration and even co-governance
  - Sustain – *Good Food for London*
  - Soil Association – *Good Food for All*
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# Urban food governance

- New forms of urban food governance are beginning to emerge
  - **Food Policy Councils** - Bristol was the first to create a formal FPC in the UK
  - **Food Partnerships** - Brighton, London and Manchester
  - **Sustainable Food Cities Network** - cities learning from each other and enhancing their collective voice in food/health policy circles
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# Concluding questions...

- **The urban food question** – a burning issue for the many or the privileged few?
  - **The cooperative turn** – are civil society groups gaining influence in partnering the local state or sacrificing creativity and their radical voice?
  - **The urban food movement** – a movement for social justice, public health and sustainability or the unwitting agent of green gentrification?
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